



## MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The  
First, Second, and Third  
Tuesday of each month

### Regular Meeting

County Courthouse,  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

**August 5, 2008**

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer

Pledge of Allegiance led by David Wilbrecht, CAO

### OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

### BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

*Hold reports until next week's meeting.*

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County  
Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

*Hold report until next week's meeting.*

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**M08-154** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2008, as amended.

#### ***Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0***

Supervisor Reid: After Tams' statement on page 7 regarding continued use of the area for motorcycle training, add the following: (The Board did not agree to this since this would require further discussion).

**M08-155** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2008.  
***Hazard/Hunt, 4-0; Bauer abstain***

**M08-156** Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 15, 2008.  
***Reid/Hazard, 3-0; Bauer and Farnetti abstain***

*Closed Session: 9:10—10:05 a.m.*

*Break: 10:05 a.m.*

*Reconvened: 10:15 a.m.*

*Break: 11:50 a.m.—Noon*

*Lunch Break: 1:35-2:35 p.m.*

*Reconvened: 2:35 p.m.*

*Closed Session: 3:55—4:15 p.m.*

*Adjourned: 4:15 p.m.*

#### CLOSED SESSION

#### COUNTY COUNSEL

- 3a) Conference with Legal Counsel - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9. Facts and circumstances: threatened litigation by Eric Drell. Number of potential cases: one.
- 3b) Conference with Legal Counsel - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9. Facts and circumstances: threat of litigation by Kathy Stewart. Number of potential cases: one.
- 3c) Conference with Legal Counsel - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Government Code section 54956.9. Number of potential case: one.

***The Board had nothing to report from closed session.***

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

**Jody Henning** reported on the following: 1) Closed the roll on July 31st and turned it over to the Director of Finance; the roll value is up 10.83% over last year, prior to exemptions (this does not include Mammoth Mountain). 2) Continuing to monitor property values; will continue to review for the January 1, 2008 date up until December. A lot of people are calling about their value, and the Assessor's Office has been receiving many requests for reviews. Reductions have amounted to about \$11 million in assessed value. 3) Staff continues to work on the backlog. 4) Asked IT to run notices of supplemental assessment each week on Thursdays. 5) The Assessment Appeals Board recently heard two cases; one case was stipulated, and the County won the other appeal.

**Sheriff Scholl** reported on the following: 1) Provided an update about the Sherwin Fire. The fire was reported about Noon on Sunday; the Sheriff's Department response was coordinated with other agencies. Assisted with evacuating campgrounds, and setting up a command post. The fire is currently contained to about 230 acres and doesn't seem to be growing. Ed Zylman reported that he responded to a call late Sunday from the OAS office, and opened the high school gym for about 150-160 teenagers from the YMCA camp. The boys stayed in the gym, and the girls stayed with counselors in RVs. The emergency shelter provided breakfast the next morning. Also, the health department checked to make sure the campers were feeling well. 2) The ATV class was held last week. It was extremely successful—over 40 kids participated, there were no injuries, it was well run, there was not a problem with dust, and the community gave great feedback.

**Beverly Bryant** reported on the following: Gave an update about the Bridgeport exercise room. They spent \$7000 for cosmetic upgrades, and spent about \$16,500 on new equipment. This facility has been well received by participants. Members pay a \$10 fee for the key and there are currently 58 keys being used; key use can be tracked. The Forest Service purchased \$700 worth of equipment that is in use.

**Tom Wallace** reported on the following: Had another incident at the Crowley Lake Community Center with un-permitted alcohol and complaints about noise. The community coordinator visited the site to check the situation and confronted people about use of alcohol. This is an unfortunate situation for the coordinator, and raises concerns about property management. Wallace asked the coordinator to not accept any further private party applications for Crowley Lake until the County reviews the policy; they will honor three applications that have been approved. Wallace will organize a committee to review the situation at Crowley Lake. There was no damage to the facility.

**Ed Zylman** reported on the following: He referred to a recent issue of CSAC magazine that has information about revenue and expenditures regarding the cost for public assistance. Comparing Mono County with five small counties and other area counties, Mono's costs are low. Staff does a good job of providing services at a low cost. Each citizen is paying about \$20 in taxes to run the department.

**Lynda Roberts** reported on the following: In the process of looking for one location to accommodate all the Mammoth Lakes voting precincts. The high school gym is the only public space that will be large enough; there are logistical issues that need to be resolved. Will agendaize this item for the special meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> for further discussion.

## CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item)

### ***Supervisor Reid pulled Items 4a and 5a***

## AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS

- 4a) Defensible Space and Fire Hazard Reduction Ordinance - Proposed Ordinance Adding a Chapter 7.22, Pertaining to Defensible Space and Fire Hazard Reduction, to Title Seven of the Mono County Code.

- Ord08-03**      **Action:** Adopt **Ordinance Ord08-03** adding a Chapter 7.22, pertaining to Defensible Space and Fire Hazard Reduction, to Title Seven of the Mono County Code.

***Reid/Hazard, 5-0***

Scott Burns provided clarification about situations when adjacent property with no structure abuts a property with a structure. They did not define set backs or defensible space from the structure to the property line so the requirement extends onto adjacent property. This was written purposefully to advise adjacent property owners that they are required to create defensible space.

Supervisor Reid: County staff needs to meet with local fire departments to make sure they understand the requirements.

Rick McManis: Mark Mikulicich is coordinating notification activities.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PLANNING DIVISION

- 5a)      June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee Appointment - Consider the recommendation of Chairperson Bauer to appoint Dean Rosnau to the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee.

- M08-157**      **Action:** Appoint Dean Rosnau to the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee to fill the remainder of the four-year term recently vacated by Jerry Hallum.

***Reid/Hazard, 5-0***

Supervisor Reid: Acknowledged receipt of one email and two letters expressing displeasure with this appointment; the correspondence was submitted by Al Heinrich, Dorothy Burdette, and Lee Vorobyoff. Generally speaking the Board allows the district supervisor to make appointments on committees. Supervisor Bauer: The term expires December 31, 2008, so it will only be a five-month term. Supervisor Farnetti: This is an advisory body, and ultimately decisions go to the planning commission and potentially to the Board. He deferred to the Supervisor of District 3 regarding this recommendation. Supervisor Hunt: Although sensitive to the comments, the Board relies on a district's elected official for recommendations. Supervisor Hazard: It is the local supervisor's appointment. He said his experience shows that balanced representation is good.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 6a)      Mono County Tourism Commissioner - Appointment of Christine Long to the Mono County Tourism and Film Commission. Reappointment of Bill Banta (District 4) and Sandy Forstenzer (District 2) to said Commission.

- M08-158**      **Action:** Appoint Christine Long to the Mono County Tourism and Film Commission. Reappoint Bill Banta (at large) and Sandy Forstenzer (District 2) to said Commission.

***Reid/Hazard, 5-0***

Marshall Rudolph: In reference to Bill Banta, he is an at-large member.

## CLERK-RECORDER

- 7a) Reappointment of Richard Liebersbach to the Mono County Assessment Appeals Board - Richard Liebersbach's current three-year term on the Assessment Appeals Board will expire on August 31, 2008.

**M08-159      Action:** Reappoint Richard Liebersbach to the Mono County Assessment Appeals Board for a new term commencing on or about August 31, 2008.  
***Reid/Hazard, 5-0***

## ELECTIONS

- 8a) Republican Central Committee - Republican Central Committee.

**M08-160      Action:** Pursuant to Elections Code section 7423, declare John Eastman and Vikki Bauer elected to the Republican Central Committee for a two-year term; direct the Clerk to prepare a "Certificate of Election" for each of them.  
***Hunt/Reid, 4-0; Bauer abstain***

## REGULAR AGENDA

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

### CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 9a) Letter from Bruce Cotton - Letter from Bruce Cotton addressed to The Inyo Register concerning the proposed wilderness bill; cc: Mono County Board of Supervisors.
- 9b) Letter from John E. Baxter - Letter from John E. Baxter addressed to Mono County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed wilderness area.
- 9c) D & S Waste Removal, Inc. - Letter from D&S Waste Removal, Inc., to Mono County Board regarding franchise agreement between Mono County and D&S Waste Removal, Inc.
- 9d) Letter from Antelope Valley Fire Protection District - Letter from Antelope Valley Fire Protection District Commissioners to Mono County Board of Supervisors regarding enforcement of the Cal Fire codes.
- 9e) Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act - Public comments regarding the proposed Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act.

Supervisor Reid: Regarding Item 9d, asked Scott Burns to contact the organization and clarify the process.

***Chairwoman Bauer acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.***

## HUMAN RESOURCES

10a) Employment Contract Franklin Smith (**Robert Garret**) - Consider and potentially adopt proposed resolution R08\_ approving an employment agreement with Franklin W. Smith and prescribing the compensation, appointment, and conditions of said employment. Receive staff report. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**R08-45      Action:** Adopt **Resolution R08-45** approving an employment agreement with Franklin W. Smith and prescribing the compensation, appointment, and conditions of said employment.

***Hazard/Hunt, 5-0***

Robert Garret: Smith has been hired as a new district attorney investigator. He has many years of local experience as a detective with the Town of Mammoth Lakes Police Department. Garret recommended approval.

George Booth: Frank has 15 years of law enforcement experience. Booth has observed his work in court and he will be an asset to the department, and a superb DA investigator.

Supervisor Hazard: Has first-hand experience with Frank's work; he has done a good job in law enforcement.

## COUNTY COUNSEL

11a) Proposed Letter to the PUC (**Marshall Rudolph**) - Consider proposed letter from the Mono County Board of Supervisors to the California Public Utilities Commission regarding Southern California Edison's pending general rate case.

**M08-161      Action:** Authorize the Board Chair to sign said letter.

***Hazard/Farnetti, 3-2; Reid and Hunt No***

Marshall Rudolph highlighted the following:

- Southern California Edison is seeking cost recovery for construction of the Millcreek return ditch.
- The letter before the Board takes a position that SCE should not recover costs through raising rates since the ditch is not mandatory.
- SCE has not yet applied for permission to construct the ditch and it could be years before FERC makes a decision, plus the County has requested an environmental review with FERC.
- This issue is not ripe for cost recovery at this point. This issue is a matter of principle and what the Board believes is appropriate.
- In theory, County water rights will not be impacted by an improved ditch. Also, the absence of a ditch doesn't necessarily protect water rights.

The following members of the audience commented.

- Tim Alpers: Sufficient water is required to keep Conway Ranch fish production viable. He encouraged the Board to support the letter.
- Geoff McQuilkin: The County has been consistent with advocating for Millcreek water. The proposed letter seems to be a shift in tactics, and may impair the County's ability to deal with the other water users. McQuilkin expressed concern that the letter will convey a negative message, and he urged the Board to assess whether the letter advances the County's goals.
- Katie Bellomo: It is appropriate for a county to write to the PUC. The settling parties in this case have gone to the PUC to put forth their position, so the Board would be presenting the County's point of view. The PUC does consider the consequences of projects.
- Michael Schlaffman: The Forest Service believes the SCE is obligated to pursue the construction of the return ditch, and the Forest Service will comply with their portion of the settlement agreement. Construction of the ditch is not authorization for transportation of water in the ditch. Schlaffman did not support the letter as written; a letter just addressing cost recovery would be a different letter. He encouraged the County to work with the Forest Service on the water plan for the Basin.

Supervisors Reid and Hunt did not support the letter since there is already a workable settlement agreement in place. Supervisors Hazard, Farnetti, and Bauer supported the letter since it acknowledges that rate payers should not bear the cost of third party interests.

## FINANCE

### **Additional Departments: Public Health**

12a)

**Temporary Food Facility Fees (Supervisor Tom Farnetti and Brian Muir) -** Receive staff report. Discuss waiving fees for temporary food facilities operated by non- profit organizations.

**Action:** Give direction to staff.

Brian Muir: The revenue to be waived would be about \$1,500 per year. If the Board waives the fees, inspections will continue and will be funded from the general fund. Depending on the duration of the permit, the fee varies. (This is not a new fee.) If the Board wants to waive fees, they need to clarify what they mean by a non-profit organization. It is important to understand that a non-profit may organize an event but may have outside vendors—does the Board want to waive those vendor fees?

Supervisor Farnetti: This issue came up because there were questions and complaints during 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Jazz Jubilee. In the past, the fees were not being collected, so non-profits had the impression they were exempt.

Marshall Rudolph: Staff is just gathering input today; a proper resolution will need to be drafted.  
Louis Molina: It is good PR to waive fees for non-profit organizations.

The Board asked staff to compile a list of the organizations that might fall within the non-profit category; County Counsel will draft a resolution for further discussion.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BUILDING DIVISION

### **Additional Departments:** County Counsel

- 13a) New Building Codes Ordinance (**Rick McManis - Building Official**) - Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 15.04 of the Mono County Code Pertaining to Building Regulations and Uniform Codes.

**Ord08-04** **Action:** Adopt **Ordinance Ord08-04** amending Chapter 15.04 of the Mono County Code Pertaining to Building Regulations and Uniform Codes. Direct filing of building standard modifications with the California Building Standards Commission.

### ***Hunt/Hazard, 5-0***

Rick McManis: This is the second reading for adoption of the new California building codes with Mono County amendments. Jurisdictions can modify the California code according to topographical and climatic conditions.

Chairwoman Bauer opened the public hearing. No one spoke. Chairwoman Bauer closed the public hearing.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### **Additional Departments:** Planning, Code Compliance

- 14a) Grading Ordinance Revision (**Evan Nikirk**) - Consider and potentially adopt an ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Chapter 13.08 of the Mono County Code to Create an Exemption from Grading Permit Requirements for Land Clearing Activities Within Specified Distances of Buildings or Structures and Exempting Certain Land Clearing Activities from the Payment of Fees."

**Ord08-05** **Action:** Adopt **Ordinance Ord08-05** entitled, "An Ordinance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Chapter 13.08 of the Mono County Code to Create an Exemption from Grading Permit Requirements for Land Clearing Activities Within Specified Distances of Buildings or Structures and Exempting Certain Land Clearing Activities from the Payment of Fees."

### ***Hunt/Hazard, 5-0***

Evan Nikirk: This is the second reading of the ordinance, which allows for an exemption if certain conditions are satisfied.

Supervisor Reid: Asked if a property owner with a vacant lot adjacent to property with a structure could use the exemption. Nikirk: The ordinance can be applied in that way.

- 14b) IMAAA Ford Expedition (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive staff report regarding a request by the Inyo-Mono Area Agency on Aging (IMAAA) to obtain a replacement for its vehicle currently serving the Antelope Valley. Consider and potentially authorize the Public Works Director to transfer ownership of a surplus County vehicle to IMAAA. Provide any desired direction to staff.



**M08-162**      **Action:** 1. Find that Mono County owns a 2003 Ford Expedition (Unit 0724) in good condition that is excess and/or unneeded property. 2. Authorize the Public Works Director to prepare, process, and execute applicable documents on behalf of Mono County to transfer ownership of a 2003 Ford Expedition VIN number 1FMPU16L23LB79716 to IMAAA.

***Hazard/Reid, 5-0***

Jeff Walters: The vehicle referenced above is in better condition than IMAAA's current vehicle; recommending that the Board change ownership to IMAAA. The Antelope Fire District is interested in owning the old vehicle. Marshall Rudolph: Changing ownership of the old vehicle will need to be on a future agenda.

14c)      Road Fund Heavy Equipment Replacement Workshop (**Evan Nikirk and Jeff Walters**) - Receive staff report and conduct workshop regarding potential options for the long-term replacement of Public Works' on-road and off-road heavy equipment fleet, including snow removal equipment, for the Road Division. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**Action:** Conduct workshop to discuss the long-term replacement of Public Works' on-road and off-road heavy equipment fleet, including snow removal equipment, for the Road Division. Provide any desired direction to staff.

Evan Nikirk: This is the last step in a series of discussions regarding the need to seriously consider replacement of heavy equipment. There are new regulations for diesel vehicles, plus the fleet is aging and the county needs a plan to replace the equipment in a timely manner. In a PowerPoint presentation, Nikirk highlighted the following:

- Reviewed the current road division vehicles, including snow removal equipment.
- Summarized the current vs. proposed replacement fleet. The current fleet is 60 units, and the proposed fleet would be 53 units.
- Presented the cash (pay-as-you-go) option vs. financing. Both options meet diesel emissions deadlines. Cash option will replace the fleet in 16 years and the financing option will replace the fleet in 20 years. The financing option is always available.

Jeff Walters: Reviewed a detailed spreadsheet comparing the financing options and replacement schedule. The fleet has to comply with new regulations by the following dates: For on-road vehicles, the year 2020 (for older engines) and the year 2025; for off-road vehicles, the year 2015. The financing option extends to the year 2026-27; at the end of this option, the process will need to start over since equipment will be nearly 20 years old by then.

Nikirk: Brought this information to the Board prior to the upcoming budget workshop so the Board would have time to review the proposal. The longer this issue waits, the harder it is to maintain the equipment. There may be a cost savings if the County contracts for hauling services.

Brian Muir: Recommended pay-as-you-go to the extent possible.

David Wilbrecht: This is an issue that the Board will need to address each year. The introduction today was to present the big picture so the Board can start to prioritize. For the budget hearings, staff will provide the Board with alternatives, savings, and risks associated with this issue.

- 14d) Carl Moyer Program Funding (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive staff report regarding funding assistance available through the Carl Moyer Program to retrofit or repower certain heavy equipment to meet diesel emissions requirements.

**M08-163** **Action:** Decline offer from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District for funding through the 2008 Carl Moyer program.  
**Hunt/Reid, 5-0**

Jeff Walters: The Carl Moyer program provides funding for projects that are in addition to the regulatory requirements. Three pieces of machinery have been selected, but the program would only provide partial funding for expensive repairs. Based upon reliability, issues particular to the County, and the need for machinery to run all year long, it is best to replace equipment as discussed in the previous presentation (14c above). There is supposed to be funding this year for a replacement program, and this would positively impact the plan as presented earlier (14c above). Public Works' recommendation is to let the funding go until the new program is in place.

Supervisor Hazard: Would like to see a version of the staff report and a letter sent to CARB and Great Basin Air Pollution Control District to explain why the Carl Moyer program is non-functional, and request a program that works for the County.

#### CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 15a) Board Deliberations regarding Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act (**Supervisor Vikki Bauer**) - Receive new maps and legislative text on proposed Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act. Continue Board deliberations from June 10, 2008, public hearing.

**M08-164** **Action:** 1) Direct staff to draft a letter, to be signed by the five Supervisors, giving conditional support for the proposal as understood today. 2) Agendize the letter on the August 19, 2008, Consent Agenda.  
**Hazard/Hunt, 5-0**

Chairwoman Bauer: The Board held a public hearing in June concerning this issue; in addition to the public comments, hundreds of letters have been received. The purpose of today's agenda item is for Board deliberations. Bob Haueter will provide an update about changes in the legislation.

Bob Haueter highlighted the following:

- The maps are available on Senator Boxer's and Congressman McKeon's websites.
- Opinions expressed at the public hearing added valuable information and have improved the legislation; the revised language is reflected on the maps.
- There have been further compromises, and all reasonable issues raised have been addressed.
- There have been nearly 40 amendments since the June hearing. The amendments addressed the various issues including water rights, packers' issues, access issues, concerns about the John Muir area raised by Supervisor Hazard, and snowmobile use around Mammoth Mountain.
- There have been 14 deletions and 5 additions, but overall the amount of proposed wilderness did not increase beyond the original 470,000 acres.

- There will be a hearing in the Senate on September 12<sup>th</sup> that may result in small changes, but none of the things addressed today will be removed from the bill. Any changes will be available on the internet.
- If a valid concern is raised that can be addressed, they will act on it.

#### Board Comments

- Supervisor Reid: Asked about pre-wilderness local economies vs. post-wilderness local economies.

Haueter: Information about economic benefit can be found at [www.sonoran.org/index](http://www.sonoran.org/index); the bill should not have a negative impact. Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Congressman McKeon received over 300 letters of support from businesses in Mono County; they have heard from hunters and fishermen about how their experiences were enhanced because of wilderness. The bill creates a winter recreation area to guarantee use of snowmobiles in Leavitt Bowl, which protects the local economy. In addition, 50,000 WSAs have been released and will be open to motorized access and other access that is not currently available. Equipment needed to fight fires can be used in wilderness areas; the Wilderness Act allows for measures to be taken as necessary for fire, insects, and disease.

- Supervisor Hazard: Since this will be a Class Two wilderness designation (not as restrictive as a Class One), the bill shouldn't have a significant impact. Supports compromise for wilderness issues; this has been a long process, including both a nonpublic and public process. Issues in his district have been addressed, and he is ready to support the bill. This bill resolves issues that have been discussed for many years.
- Chairwoman Bauer: The concerns in her district have been addressed. Expressed appreciation for the level of detail work. She has seen her business in June Lake change over the last several years, and people's needs are changing. Many, many of her constituents support this bill, and the process has eliminated problem issues. She believes in compromise and believes it has been reached. She asked if the issue of trails has been addressed.

Haueter: Yes, they have received input from various groups including the Forest Service and biking organizations. Nothing has been closed that was available before.

- Supervisor Farnetti: This has been a public process; stakeholders' wishes have been considered and legitimate issues have been addressed. The community and congressional staffs have done good job. Supervisors Reid's and Hazard's support says a lot because they have very diverse constituencies. This bill is a real compromise and will be a benefit to Mono County. His district is supportive.
- Supervisor Hunt: Impressed with the compromises and adjustments that have been made. This has been a long process and it is time to show appreciation by endorsing this bill. Believes wilderness will do a lot for generations to come; this is a very positive thing. The majority of District 5 constituents supports wilderness.

Chairwoman Bauer called for public comment from those who had not previously spoken at the public hearing or provided a letter. The following people spoke:

- Walt Hoffman: Agreed that this is a good bill and needs support; concerns have been addressed.
- Lindsey Ashlock: On behalf of Sierra Treks, supported the bill and its speedy passage.
- Katie Bellomo: Encouraged the Board to do public outreach in order to make sure the public understands the bill since there has been dissention in the community.
- Rick Jaylee: Impressed with the level of attention given the various concerns. Supported the bill.
- Deborah Lurry: Supported the bill and expressed appreciation for all the hard work involved. She expressed concern about the possibility of mining in the Bodie Hills and did not support release of the Bodie WSA.

Chairwoman Bauer said the Bodie WSA has not been released. Haueter said this bill will not address the Bodie WSA.

- Comment from a Lee Vining resident: Her family appreciates the quiet and solitude of this area, and visitors do support the local economy. Some people may not visit if they do not have this type of experience. She supported the compromise.
- Rolf Knudsen: Experience has shown that opposition diminishes as understanding of long-term benefits grows. This bill addresses the various uses and uses that are appropriate for the area.
- Jim Upchurch: The Forest Service has testified before Congress based on the previous proposal. They generally support the proposal with some outstanding issues; can't lend total support without reviewing changes.

Haueter: The committee has addressed issues raised by the Forest Service. The committee will not address the Forest Service's travel management plan.

Chairwoman Bauer asked Mr. Haueter if a letter of support from the Board would be the next step. Haueter said a letter would be submitted as part of the testimony at the upcoming hearing; he suggested supporting the bill conditionally upon final review. It is important to have the support of the local congressman, but it is even better to have support from the local community; it shows that the issue has gone through a public process.

Supervisor Hazard suggested that staff draft a letter for all Board members to sign and agendize it for August 19<sup>th</sup> so the public has a chance to review the letter prior to approval.

Supervisor Reid: Believes a majority of his constituents are opposed to the bill, yet it seems they have not been engaged in the process (Reid called for a show of hands and nearly 100% of the people present supported the bill). Believes this bill contains a lot of good compromise, such as the Bridgeport snowmobile area, cherry-stemming of roads, protection for grazers and packers, and water rights; supports the release of four WSAs. Expressed disappointment about the ability for disabled people to access WSAs. Haueter: The DOJ is reviewing this issue; Congressman McKeon has promised to introduce a bill next year if the issue is not addressed administratively.

Supervisor Hunt: Time is of the essence and a letter of support from the Board would give the congressional delegation the support they need to continue through the process. He presented a draft letter to the Board for their review. Marshall Rudolph: County Counsel did not help draft the letter, but only reviewed it from a legal point of view; this is a policy matter.

Supervisor Reid did not support approving the letter at this time. He is prepared to make an affirmative vote, but wants staff to draft a letter that the public can review prior to Board approval.

ADJOURN: 4:15 p.m.

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